



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS THREE ON MURDER CHARGES IN WHITERIVER

PHOENIX-- A federal grand jury in Phoenix returned three indictments on August 22, 2006, charging Murder in connection with three separate deaths in Whiteriver, Arizona. The three cases are unrelated.

Brandon Manuel, 21, of Whiteriver, Arizona, was indicted on a single count of Second Degree Murder in connection with the July 1, 2006 death of Anthony Jo Julian.

Hunter Hugh Taylor, 23, was indicted with a single count of First Degree murder in connection with the July 23, 2006 death of Prestina Kaye Rivas-Madriral of Whiteriver.

Shawnell Shya Kasey, 22, of Canyon Day, Arizona, was indicted for First Degree Murder in connection with the death of Santana Paxson on June 2, 2006. Kasey was also charged with Obstruction and Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice. Additionally, Antonio Roy James was indicted in the same case with Accessory After the Fact to First Degree Murder, Obstruction and Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice.

A conviction for First Degree Murder carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine or both. A conviction for Second Degree Murder carries a maximum penalty of up to life imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00 or both. In determining an actual sentence, the judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the White Mountain Tribal Police Department, Fort Apache Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution is being handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-776-PCT (Manuel)
CR-06-777-PCT (Taylor)
CR-06-0775-PCT (Kasey & James)
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-162(Manuel & Taylor & Kasey & James)

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